

in Baltimore, Maryland. He also earned a Master of Arts in Education at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey. He was ordained for the Diocese of Trenton in 1968 and has been pastor of St. Philip and St. James Parish in Phillipsburg, New Jersey since 1979.

Under his guidance, the parish has been active in the community. While activities like their soup kitchen and Thanksgiving food drive feed the bodies of those less fortunate in Phillipsburg; their compassion and love feed their souls. And, the parish elementary school provides a quality education to so many local children.

In addition to his work directly in Phillipsburg, Monsignor Corona spreads his skills and good nature through his work with the Diocese and other Catholic leadership organizations. He is a member of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council and College of Consultors, as well as the Director of Education for the Diocese of Metuchen. He is also the President of the International Catholic Stewardship Council's Board of Directors, an organization dedicated to the proposition that "all members of our family of faith are called to be Christian stewards and share their gifts of time, talent and treasure in proportion to the blessings they have received from God."

Monsignor Corona is an integral part of the community of Phillipsburg. I join his neighbors in commending him for his good work, his dedication to the people and particularly the children of Phillipsburg, and his commitment to continually improving this historic city.

IN HONOR DR. ROBERT ABEL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Abel's lasting contributions and dedication to the oceans. Dr. Abel's environmental stewardship helped make New Jersey a leader in sustainable ocean and coastal research, policy planning and marine science education.

Sadly, Dr. Abel passed away on October 10th, but he left behind a lasting legacy of support for protection of coastal and ocean resources in New Jersey and the Nation. On October 31st, at the Monmouth University Urban Coast Institute's 3rd Annual Ocean Champion Awards, Dr. Abel will be honored with a State Ocean Leadership Award presented posthumously to his widow, Mrs. Nancy Abel.

Dr. Abel began his distinguished career in government service as a chemical oceanographer with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts. He then served as Staff Oceanographer to the Vice President of the United States from 1960–1967.

Later, he was appointed as the founding Director of the National Sea Grant College Program. During his tenure, Dr. Abel was responsible for transforming the Sea Grant Program. He expanded it to include education-based projects for shore protection, fisheries, aquaculture and environmental protection.

As President of the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium, Dr. Abel ensured permanent New Jersey State funding for the Sea Grant Program, guiding the program to receive

the Nation's first and only non-university program college status. I had the privilege of serving as a fellow through the program, and have also had fellows serve in my office over the last 20 years, providing me with invaluable counsel on ocean issues.

Dr. Robert Abel was also a diplomat of the ocean. In 1981, he formed the Cooperative Marine Technology Program for the Middle East. He worked together with Israeli, Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian scientists, hoping that international environmental stewardship could help strengthen bilateral ties.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Dr. Robert Abel, and extending our sincere condolences and deep appreciation to Mrs. Abel. Dr. Abel's scientific and diplomatic efforts will continue to benefit and inspire my constituents, and his many international colleagues and friends, for years to come.

ED AND MARILYN FITZGERALD:
HONORING LIFETIMES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, during my years in public office, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many extraordinary constituents committed to a seemingly endless array of good works and causes. None has served their community more ably and admirably than my dear friends Ed and Marilyn Fitzgerald, recent recipients of the prestigious YMCA "Good Neighbor" Award. The Fitzgerald's volunteerism and decades-long service to the needy, to members of the Armed Forces and area veterans, and to the communities of Lomita, Wilmington, and San Pedro—all located in my Congressional District—make them richly deserving of this recognition.

I first met them years ago when their daughter Sharon applied to the Air Force Academy. Sharon received my top recommendation, and attained the rank of Captain before leaving active-duty to be a full-time mother. To this day, Ed and Marilyn are members of my Academy Nominating Committee.

Although technically retired, Ed and Marilyn have never stopped working, and probably log more volunteer hours than most people put in at the office. Whether it is teaching children to read at Taper Avenue School, or distributing food and clothing to the homeless at Beacon Light Mission, the Fitzgeralds do not waver in their efforts to help those less fortunate. Not content to help only with the basics, the couple also organizes movie and museum excursions for kids, whale watching trips, and other activities inner-city kids might not have a chance to experience.

The active military and veterans' communities in Los Angeles County—among the Nation's largest—have also benefited from the Fitzgerald's advocacy. Both volunteer at the Long Beach Veterans Hospital, transporting immobile veterans to and from doctor's appointments, and both devote hours of their time to helping the many veterans, including homeless veterans, in the Harbor Area. They reach beyond helping their neighbors by rais-

ing awareness nationally on behalf of America's POWs and MIAs.

And I only recently learned of Marilyn and Ed's fundraising campaign to gather and ship audio-video equipment to our troops in Iraq. Separation during wartime can severely affect morale—a problem the Fitzgeralds believe our soldiers and their families should not have to endure. With Sharon's husband serving in Iraq, this tireless twosome is even working on a better way to correspond with family members stationed overseas.

Madam Speaker, other communities have selfless people like Marilyn and Ed. But I am grateful to them every time we meet. They are true patriots.

ON INTRODUCTION OF GOOD SAMARITAN CLEANUP OF ABANDONED HARDROCK MINES ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am again introducing legislation designed to help promote the cleanup of abandoned and inactive hardrock mines that are a menace to the environment and public health throughout the country, but especially in the west.

In the 107th, 108th, and 109th Congresses, I introduced similar bills aimed at that result. Following the bill's first introduction in the 107th Congress, revisions were made to incorporate a number of changes developed in consultation with interested parties, including representatives of the Western Governors' Association, the hardrock mining industry, and environmental groups.

The bill I am introducing today is also the product of further consultations, including with the Environmental Protection Agency. It represents years of effort to reach agreement on establishing a program to advance the cleanup of polluted water from abandoned mines.

The bill is cosponsored by our colleague from New Mexico, Representative PEARCE. I greatly appreciate his support.

THE BACKGROUND

For over one hundred years, miners and prospectors have searched for and developed valuable "hardrock" minerals—gold, silver, copper, molybdenum, and others. Hardrock mining has played a key role in the history of Colorado and other states, and the resulting mineral wealth has been an important aspect of our economy and the development of essential products. However, as all westerners know, this history has too often been marked by a series of "boom" times followed by a "bust" when mines were no longer profitable. When these busts came, too often the miners would abandon their workings and move on, seeking riches over the next mountain. The resulting legacy of unsafe open mine shafts and acid mine drainages can be seen throughout the country and especially on the western public lands where mineral development was encouraged to help settle our region.

THE PROBLEMS

The problems caused by abandoned and inactive mines are very real and very large—including acidic water draining from old tunnels,

heavy metals leaching into streams killing fish and tainting water supplies, open vertical mine shafts, dangerous highwalls, large open pits, waste rock piles that are unsightly and dangerous, and hazardous dilapidated structures.

And, unfortunately, many of our current environmental laws, designed to mitigate the impact from operating hardrock mines, are of limited effectiveness when applied to abandoned and inactive mines. As a result, many of these old mines go on polluting streams and rivers and potentially risking the health of people who live nearby or downstream.

OBSTACLES TO CLEANUPS

Right now there are two serious obstacles to progress. One is a serious lack of funds for cleaning up sites for which no private person or entity can be held liable. The other obstacle is legal.

While the Clean Water Act is one of the most effective and important of our environmental laws, as applied it can mean that someone undertaking to clean up an abandoned or inactive mine will be exposed to the same liability that would apply to a party responsible for creating the site's problems in the first place. As a result, would-be "good Samaritans" understandably have been unwilling to volunteer their services to clean up abandoned and inactive mines.

Unless these fiscal and legal obstacles are overcome, often the only route to clean up abandoned mines will be to place them on the Nation's Superfund list. Colorado has experience with that approach, so Coloradans know that while it can be effective it also has shortcomings. For one thing, just being placed on the Superfund list does not guarantee prompt cleanup. The site will have to get in line behind other listed sites and await the availability of financial resources. In addition, as many communities within or near Superfund sites know, listing an area on the Superfund list can create concerns about stigmatizing an area and potentially harming nearby property values.

We need to develop an alternative approach that will mean we are not left only with the options of doing nothing or creating additional Superfund sites—because while in some cases the Superfund approach may make the most sense, in many others there could be a more direct and effective way to remedy the problem.

WESTERN GOVERNORS WANT ACTION

The Governors of our western States have recognized the need for action to address this serious problem. The Western Governors' Association has several times adopted resolutions on the subject, such as the one of June 2004 entitled "Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines" sponsored by Governor Bill Owens of Colorado along with Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Governor Kenny Guinn of Nevada.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSES TO THE OBSTACLES

To respond to the need for funding, I have joined as a cosponsor of H.R. 2262, the "Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007," introduced by the distinguished Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Representative RAHALL of West Virginia, which has now been ordered reported from that Committee. That legislation will establish a Locatable Minerals Fund to receive royalties

and fees related to hardrock mines on Federal lands that, among other things, can be used for the reclamation and restoration of lands and waters adversely affected by past mining on Federal lands.

And the bill I am introducing today responds to a legal obstacle, the potential liability under the Clean Water Act that now deters many would-be "good Samaritans" from undertaking efforts to clean up abandoned hardrock mines.

To help the efforts of "good Samaritans," this bill would create a new program under the Clean Water Act under which qualifying individuals and entities could obtain permits to conduct cleanups of abandoned or inactive hardrock mines. These permits would give some liability protection to those volunteering to clean up these sites, while also requiring the permit holders to meet certain requirements.

The bill specifies who can secure these permits, what would be required by way of a cleanup plan, and the extent of liability exposure. Notably, unlike regular Clean Water Act point-source ("NPDES") permits, these new permits would not require meeting specific standards for specific pollutants and would not impose liabilities for monitoring or long-term maintenance and operations. These permits would terminate upon completion of cleanup, if a regular Clean Water Act permit is issued for the same site, or if a permit holder encounters unforeseen conditions beyond the holder's control. I think this would encourage efforts to fix problems like those at the Pennsylvania Mine.

The new permit proposed in this bill would help address problems that have frustrated federal and state agencies throughout the country. As population growth continues near these old mines, more and more risks to public health and safety are likely to occur. We simply must begin to address this issue—not only to improve the environment, but also to ensure that our water supplies are safe and usable. This bill does not address all the concerns some would-be Good Samaritans may have about initiating cleanup projects—and I am committed to continue working to address those additional concerns, through additional legislation and in other ways. But this bill can make a real difference and I think it deserves approval without unnecessary delay.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions:

Eligibility for Good Samaritan Permits—Permits could be issued to a person or entity not involved in creation of residue or other conditions resulting from mining at a site within the bill's scope. Any other similar person or entity could be a cooperating party to help with a cleanup.

Sites Covered by the Bill—The bill covers sites of mines and associated facilities in the United States once used for production of a mineral (other than coal) but no longer actively mined, but does not cover sites on the national priority list under Superfund.

Administration—The permits would be issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or by a state or tribal government with an approved Clean Water Act permitting program.

Remediation Plans—To obtain a permit, an applicant would have to submit a detailed plan for remediation of the site. After an opportunity

for public comments, the EPA or other permitting authority could issue a permit if it determined that implementing the plan would not worsen water quality and could result in improving it toward meeting applicable water quality standards.

Effect of Permit—Compliance with a Good Samaritan permit would constitute compliance with the Clean Water Act, and neither a permit holder nor a cooperating party would be responsible for doing any remediation activities except those specified in the remediation plan. When the cleanup is done, the permit expires, ending the Good Samaritan's responsibility for the project.

Report and Sunset Clause—Nine years after enactment, EPA must report to Congress about the way the bill has been implemented, so Congress can consider whether to renew or modify the legislation, which under the bill will terminate after 10 years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERASIAN PATERNITY RECOGNITION ACT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, our immigration law has long recognized that children born outside our country to an American father and a foreign national mother are U.S. citizens.

Unfortunately, there remains a group of forgotten sons and daughters who, despite being born to American fathers, have been unfairly denied U.S. citizenship. These are the offspring of American servicemen and Asian women during the Vietnam and Korean Wars whose fathers did not personally take the steps of acknowledging paternity necessary to make their offspring citizens. But, the American government did that for them by acknowledging that their fathers were American citizens.

Many of these individuals have lived through devastation during war, have been mistreated by their governments because of their mixed race, and many now live in the United States, but only as legal permanent residents.

There is no doubt that Amerasians are the sons and daughters of American fathers. Our American government already made that determination when we admitted them to the United States as legal permanent residents.

To correct this unfair inequality in our law, I am introducing the Amerasian Paternity Recognition Act, along with bipartisan cosponsors, to ensure that Amerasians are accorded U.S. citizenship just like the offspring of other American fathers are.

It is time for us to finally close a chapter in our history that has too long denied Amerasians the opportunity to become citizens and be recognized as the Americans that they are.